

Tennessee Scholars Investing in Our Future



Survival of the Fittest

Every morning, a gazelle wakes up.

It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed.

Every morning, a lion wakes up. It knows it must out run the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death.

It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle. When the sun comes up, you'd better be running!

The Problem

- **Too many high school graduates are unprepared for college courses, work training programs or our high tech military.**
 - 7 out of 10 students graduate without completing the courses needed to succeed in college or the workplace.
 - Of those who go on to college, 50% + require remedial courses.
 - Many are dropping out of college after the first year because they are unprepared for the coursework and lack the skills necessary for success.
 - By the end of the decade we will face a shortage of 12 million qualified workers for the fastest-growing sectors of the job market.

Work force Weakness

- ❖ **One third of the job-seekers in Tennessee have poor or no job skills.**
- ❖ **Poor communication skills**
- ❖ **Lacking in work ethics such as attendance and team work and pride in job performance**
- ❖ **Lack of willingness to give a good days work**



Tennessee Scholars Initiative

The Tennessee Scholars Initiative is a **business-led** campaign to increase the percentage of high school students who complete **a defined set of rigorous academic courses** students need to succeed in today's workplace or higher education.



History of Tennessee Scholars

- ❖ Started in Longview Texas by Joe Randolph out of a need for workforce development at Eastman Chemical.
- ❖ Spread through Texas, then to Arkansas and eventually to Eastman Chemical area in Tennessee as AIMS Scholars.
- ❖ In 2004 President Bush appropriated funds to get the Initiative started in other states, so Tennessee was chosen to be one of the first 3 states.
- ❖ Starting with 3 pilot programs (Sumner, Knox and Dyer County) in 2004 the Initiative has grown to what it is today in Tennessee.

State Scholars Key Components

**8th Grade
Presentation**

**Incentives and
academic
supports to stay
on track**

**Senior
recognition
event(s)**

GRADES

8

9 10 11

12



What Roles do Businesses Play?

Businesses play **several vital roles** in the Tennessee Scholars Initiative:

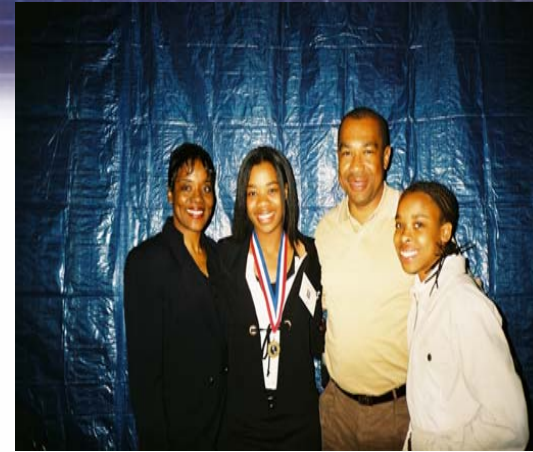
1. Supply volunteer speakers for classroom presentations and to serve on implementation committees.
2. Assist in determining funding for or provide meaningful incentives and academic supports.
3. Influence statewide and local educational policies and measures.

What Roles do Educators Play

- Superintendents and Board Members support by endorsing the program .
- Principals allow business people to come into schools to do presentations and interact with students. They also encourage students every day by motivating them in various ways.
- Teachers help by motivating and encouraging students to stay on track.
- Counselors play a vital role in record keeping and helping keep the students on track and up-to-date on where they are in the program.
- Educators also keep parents informed.

Parents Play a Vital Role

- There is never a substitute or a stronger influence on a child's education than of a parent.
- Parents are the key to the Scholars Success Formula.
- Parents sign an agreement to support their child in their efforts.
- Parents serve on committees.
- Parents encourage students to stay on track.
- Components of the Scholars Initiative are parent letters, open houses, progress reports, bumper stickers, awards day, etc.



Class Rank Focus

STUDENT CLASS RANKING

**Upper
25%**

Minor focus...
majority already
motivated

**Middle
50%**

Heaviest Focus
Greatest opportunity

**Lower
25%**

Special challenges

Tennessee Scholars

Simple

Easily replicated

Low Cost

Most of the cost is your time.

Practical

It is a win/win.

High Impact

Economic prosperity.

Quick Results

Fun





Quick Results

- ❖ **2004 graduated 89 TN Scholars, 2005 898, 2006 over 2700** students now going to college on Tennessee Scholars Scholarships
- ❖ Now a part of the Academic Competitiveness Grant (Scholarships offered by the US Department of Education for Pell Grant eligible students).
- ❖ 5 Universities offering Scholarships for 2006
Tennessee Scholars now a part of 3-Star Community (100 points)
- ❖ Now implemented in 39 counties and over 57 School Districts and over 115 High School across Tennessee. (and growing)



More Good News!

- ❖ **Students score higher on ACT.**
- ❖ **Attendance has improved.**
- ❖ **Discipline has improved.**
- ❖ **Number of students taking upper level Math and physics courses in implemented counties has increased.**
- ❖ **Numbers of students going to college has increased.**
- ❖ **Businesses are offering Job preferential hiring.**
- ❖ **Businesses and Education Foundations are tying their Scholarship criteria to Tennessee Scholars criteria.**
- ❖ **Communities are getting excited about a common goal.**
- ❖ **More parental involvement.**
- ❖ **Students are making a voluntary choice to take these courses.**




Top 10 Reasons

- 1 Students are better prepared to go to college, technical school or military.**
- 2. Students learn skills necessary for jobs in today's market.**
- 3. Economic prosperity.**
- 4. Businesses get better prepared workforce.**
- 5. Schools have better attendance and discipline.**
- 6. Parents, community, businesses and schools work together toward common goal.**
- 7. More volunteers in community.**
- 8. Drop out rate is lowered.**
- 9. ACT, SAT, college entrance exams and gateway scores are higher.**
- 10. Globally Competitive.**



What Can You do to Help?

- 1. Encourage implementation in your schools.**
- 2. Become a volunteer to help implement the initiative.**
- 3. Give funds locally and to the Statewide Initiative.**
- 4. Help influence policy issues that affect education.**
- 5. Encourage all students to take a more rigorous path toward graduation so they will be better prepared.**
- 6. Provide jobs for Tennessee Scholars.**
- 7. Ask to see a copy of the high school transcript when applying for a job.**
- 8. Give rewards and incentives to students who stay on track and do good work.**
- 9. Support your local educators and schools.**
- 10. Give me a call if you want to get this going in your community ASAP.**

A photograph of a city skyline at dusk or dawn. The sky is a deep blue. Several tall skyscrapers are visible, including a prominent one with a tiered top. In the foreground, there are palm trees and some lower-level buildings. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

The community that sets high expectations for all students is the community that is going to prosper in the long run.



Tennessee Scholars Requirements

4 credits in English

4 credits in math (Alg 1, geometry, Alg 2 and one higher math)

3 credits science (biology, chemistry, physics)

3 credits in social studies

1 full year computer course

2 credits in the same foreign language

2 Career Technical classes in the same path

Additional Expectations:

95% attendance for all 4 years of high School

No Out of School Suspensions all 4 years

20 hours of community service

Successful Completion of the required exit and gateway exams

Maintain a “C” Average